



Department of Justice

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ST. LOUIS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ST. LOUIS, MO - George Pope pled guilty this morning to possession of child pornography, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway announced today.

On June 7, 2005, Pope brought his Sony computer containing a hard drive to Best Buy for repairs. Technicians found child pornography on the computer and notified law enforcement. A subsequent federal search warrant revealed video and graphic image files of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

"Our office and law enforcement, with the help of private citizens, is committed to ensuring that these child predators are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, " said United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

Pope, 26, LKA Deer Creek Woods, St. Louis, 63124, pled guilty to one felony count of possession of child pornography before Chief United States District Judge Carol E. Jackson. Pope now faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and/or fines up to \$250,000, followed by supervised release for life when he is sentenced on February 16, 2007.

Hanaway commended the work on these cases by the the Brentwood Police Department, the Regional Computer Crimes Education & Enforcement Group (RCCEEG), the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Assistant United States Attorney Reginald Harris who is handling the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov

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